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## R. P. RITHET

(Continued on page twelve.)

comes on the market it affects the price of sugar?

Mr. Rithet. It has no effect on it whatever. The price is regulated by the world's price in Europe, and you can not get away from it; and the price is regulated by supply and demand, barring occasionally a few rich men who speculate in sugar and who jump the price up beyond what it ought to be very often; but we have nothing to do with that whatever.

Mr. Fordney. During this last season we claim our domestic crop in Michigan did have some effect upon the price of sugar.

Mr. Rithet. I beg Michigan's pardon.

Mr. Fordney (continuing). As quoted on New York markets—European raws, in other words. There was a time when our refined sugar was being sold for less money than European raws were quoted at in New York.

Mr. Rithet. That is true. It is a very strange thing, and I am sorry we did not get the benefit of it. We had a very bad year last year, and it was altogether on account of the speculative people who took charge of the market entirely.

Mr. Hinds. Mr. Rithet, the testimony has been that beet sugar generally sells 10 or 20 points under cane sugar?

Mr. Rithet. Yes.

Mr. Hinds. But that is not true on the Pacific coast?

Mr. Rithet. Oh, yes; it is.

Mr. Hinds. The Pacific beet sugar sells cheaper than the cane?

Mr. Rithet. Yes.

Mr. Hinds. Does not that bring down the price a little for you?

Mr. Rithet. No; we buy some beet sugar, too.

The Chairman. But the merchant sells it all to his consumer at the same price; is not that true?

Mr. Rithet. I do not know. We do not sell it that way. We have to brand our cane sugar and our beet sugar differently, altogether.

The Chairman. You mean the refiners do?

Mr. Rithet. Yes.

The Chairman. Do you know how that affects the consumer; whether if I buy a dollar's worth of sugar I get the same amount, whether it is beet or cane sugar?

Mr. Rithet. Go for the retailers or the wholesalers; they are the parties who are getting the benefit of it.

Mr. Hinds. Somewhere that 10 or 20 points difference between beet and cane sugar on the Pacific coast is absorbed before it gets to the consumer.

Mr. Rithet. It does not go to the refiner.

Mr. Hinds. The consumer does not get the benefit of that, does he?

Mr. Rithet. I really do not know. I do not buy enough to know, and I do not know whether they sell beet sugar for any less than cane or not. I could not answer that question, but I fancy the difference goes into the hands of the jobbers, if you want my opinion.

The Chairman. Have you a table showing the range of prices?

Mr. Rithet. I have charts here which I would be glad to leave with you.

The Chairman. You may file them as a part of your remarks. What do the charts show?

Mr. Rithet. The range of prices since 1906.

The Chairman. San Francisco prices?

Mr. Rithet. San Francisco and New York prices.

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